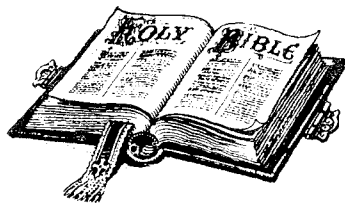


THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

Volume 22

APRIL, 1985

Number 4

DO YOU LOVE GOD'S CHILDREN?

Do you love the children of God? Of course, you probably think you do. But do you? Really? Do you truly love them? How do you **know** that you love God's children?

You can not know that you love them merely by your feelings. Your feelings are the results of your belief. If you believe that you love the children of God you will have kind feelings toward them. However, this does not necessarily mean that you really love them. Your feelings may be deceptive. Jeremiah 17:9 says: **"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"** Although you may have kind feelings toward the children of God, you may not have true love for them.

Human testimony (either yours or someone else's) is no **proof** of your love for God's children. Neither can you **know** by human testimony that you love them.

How then can you **know** that you love the children of God? Let us appeal to the Word of God for some information along this line. The inspired writer John tells us how we can **know** that we love God's children when he says: **"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous."** (1 John 5:2-3). This Scripture informs us that we **know** that we

love God's children **only** if we love God enough to keep His commandments. In view of this Scripture, please honestly examine your heart and sincerely search your soul and then answer the question: **Do you love God's children?** Be completely honest! If you do love them, continue to do so! If you don't love them, you should, and you can! If you really desire to go to heaven, you will love God's children!

(CRS)

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

"But the brethren sometimes argue that the church can organize anything it feels that it needs. I do not grant this, but it is my observation that individuals start these things for churches to support. Who is to say how many and what kind of institutions the churches need? I do not think the church as a divine institution needs any of them, but some of them do need the church, or churches, to support them. As was said by another: 'If the organization of institutions continues, the church will be little but a peg on which to hang institutions'."

— F. B. SRYGLEY in

The Gospel Advocate, Jan., 1934, P. 45.

THE INSTRUCTOR

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 1107 Highway 431 South, in Albertville, Alabama.

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Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial . . .

"PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN" (No. 13)

Last month as we continued our examination of some doctrines of men in the light of God's word, we examined the false theory that **"Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood for our sicknesses (physically) as well as for our sins."** The popularity of such teaching does not prove it to be true.

Those who advocate such teaching are obligated to **prove** by the Scriptures that such a doctrine is true. We hereby challenge those who believe and teach that **"Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood for our sicknesses (physically) as well as for our sins"** to enter into a series of public discussions with us on this question. Will they do it?

Number nine is the next item in the list of twenty-five things that appeared in THE INSTRUCTOR, October, 1983, under **"Specific Wickedness"** for which Scriptural proof for the opposite view (than that stated in # 9) has been requested. It reads as follows:

"9. Baptism is not essential to salvation."

COMMENTS: Many denomination-
alists believe and teach that **"Bap-
tism is not essential to salvation."**
Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians
and most "Pentecostals" are among
those who advocate such teaching. For
example, **The Standard Manual For
Baptist Churches** by Edward T.
Hiscox, D.D., pages 20-21, says: **"Bap-
tism is not essential to salvation,**

**for our churches utterly repudiate
the dogma of 'baptismal regenera-
tion'; but it is essential to obedi-
ence, since Christ has commanded
it. It is also essential to a public
confession of Christ before the
world, and to membership in the
church which is his body. And no
true lover of his Lord will refuse
these acts of obedience and tokens
of affections."**

A sincere consideration of the follow-
ing statements and passages of Scrip-
ture should convince every honest per-
son that the teaching that **"Baptism
is not essential to salvation"** is
false teaching!

1. Baptism is essential to the new
birth. Jesus said: **"... Except a man
be born of water and of the Spirit,
he cannot enter into the kingdom
of God."** (John 3:5). This statement
includes the teaching of the Spirit that
one must be baptized in water in order
to be saved. See Mark 16:16 and Acts
2:38. NOTE: If the new birth is essen-
tial to salvation, then baptism is es-
sential to salvation!

2. Baptism is essential to entering
the kingdom of God. Jesus said: **"...
Except a man be born of water and
of the Spirit, he cannot enter into
the kingdom of God."** (John 3:5).
NOTE: If entering the kingdom of God
is essential to salvation, then baptism
is essential to salvation!

3. Baptism is essential to getting into
the death of Christ where His blood
was shed. Paul said: **"Know ye not,
that so many of us as were bap-
tized into Jesus Christ were bap-
tized into His death?"** (Romans 6:3).
NOTE: If getting into death of Christ
where his blood was shed is essential to
salvation, then baptism is essential
to salvation!

4. Baptism is essential to being "bur-
ied with Christ" into death. The apos-
tle Paul said: **"Therefore we are
buried with Him by baptism into
death . . ."** (Romans 6:4). NOTE: If
being "buried" with Christ into death
is essential to salvation, then baptism
is essential to salvation!

5. Baptism is essential to being
"raised" with Jesus Christ. Paul said:
**"Buried with Him in baptism,
wherein also ye are risen with
Him through the faith of the oper-**

(Continued on Page 3)

"PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN"

ation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead." (Col. 2:12). NOTE: If being raised with Christ is essential to salvation, then baptism is **essential** to salvation!

6. Baptism is essential to rising to "walk in newness of life." Paul said: **"Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."** (Romans 6:4). NOTE: If rising to "walk in newness of life" is essential to salvation, then baptism is **essential** to salvation!

7. Baptism is essential to obedience. Acts 10:48 says: **"And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord..."** NOTE: If obedience is essential to salvation, then baptism is **essential** to salvation!

8. Baptism is essential to fulfilling "all righteousness." In Matthew 3:13-17 Jesus indicated that baptism is essential to fulfill all righteousness. NOTE: All of God's commands are righteousness! Baptism is a command of God. Therefore, the command to be baptized is God's righteousness! FURTHER NOTE: If fulfilling "all righteousness" is essential to salvation, then baptism is **essential** to salvation!

9. Baptism is essential to being a friend of Christ. Jesus said: **"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you,"** (John 15:14). NOTE: Baptism is a command of Christ. (See Acts 10:48). Therefore, to be a friend of Christ one must be baptized. FURTHER NOTE: If being a friend of Christ is essential to salvation, then baptism is **essential** to salvation!

10. Baptism is essential to loving Christ. He said: **"If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments."** (John 14:15 RSV). (Also see 1 John 5:3 that says: **"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous."**) NOTE: If loving Christ and God is essential to salvation, then baptism is **essential** to salvation!

11. Baptism is essential to getting into the body, which is the church. In 1

Cor. 12:13 we read: **"For by one Spirit (i.e., by the teaching or instruction of one Spirit — CRS) are we all baptized into one body..."** Col. 1:18 says: **"And He is the head of the body, the church:..."** NOTE: If getting into the body of Christ, which is His church, is essential to salvation, then baptism is **essential** to salvation!

12. Baptism is essential to having a good conscience. Peter said: **"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."** (1 Peter 3:21). NOTE: If having a good conscience is essential to salvation, then baptism is **essential** to salvation!

13. Baptism is essential to receiving the remission of sins. Peter said: **"... Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins,..."** (Acts 2:38). NOTE: If receiving the remission of sins is essential to salvation, then baptism is **essential** to salvation!

14. Baptism is essential to washing away sins. Ananias told Saul to **"... arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."** (Acts 22:16). NOTE: If washing away sins is essential to salvation, then baptism is **essential** to salvation!

15. Baptism is essential to becoming a child of God by faith. Paul said: **"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."** (Gal. 3:26-27). NOTE: If becoming a child of God by faith is essential to salvation, then baptism is **essential** to salvation!

16. Baptism is essential to getting into Christ. Paul said: **"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ."** (Gal. 3:27). NOTE: If getting into Christ (where salvation is according to 2 Tim. 2:10 — CRS) is essential to salvation, then baptism is **essential** to salvation!

17. Baptism is essential to salvation! Jesus said: **"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."** (Mark 16:16). The apostle Peter says: **"The like figure whereunto even**

(Continued from page 3)

PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN

baptism doth also now save us . . ."
(1 Peter 3:21).

18. There is **no example** in the New Testament of Jesus Christ (after the death of Jesus Christ on the cross) where any alien sinner was saved **before or without baptism!** NOTE: Neither is there any **evidence** that one may be saved **before or without baptism!**

19. In every passage of Scripture where salvation (or its equivalent) and baptism are mentioned, salvation **always comes after baptism!**

20. In ten cases of conversion recorded in the Book of Acts, (chapters 2, 8, 10-11, 16, 18, 19 & 22), **baptism is the only condition that is specifically mentioned in each case!**

When we consider all the Scriptures, we must conclude that God's word teaches that **"Baptism IS essential to salvation!"**

Please do not allow your love and respect for some man, or for some tradi-

tion, or your feelings to cause you to believe such a false doctrine as that under consideration. The eternal destiny of your soul is involved. You cannot afford to be wrong in this matter!

When a person presumes to speak the doctrine that **"Baptism is not essential to salvation"** in the name of Christ, he is speaking **presumptuously** and is teaching **false doctrine** because such teaching is **not** found in God's Book! The person who so speaks is **guilty of wickedness!** We should so **"speak"** and so **"do"** as those who will be **judged "by the law of liberty."** (See James 2:12).

Let us remember the words of the apostle Peter when he said: **"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God . . ."** (1 Peter 4:11). Let us also remember the words of our Lord when He said: **"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."** (John 12:48).

— (CRS)

(To be continued)

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

Face the sunlight and the shadows will fall behind you.

* * * * *

It takes a lot of courage to say, "Get behind me, Satan!" — and mean it!

* * * * *

Dare to be different, if to be different means to be right!

* * * * *

If we trim ourselves to suit everybody, we will soon whittle ourselves away.

* * * * *

A man can make money, but money can never make a man.

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